

Sprint

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MAR 16 2000

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

March 16, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.,
Washington D.C. 20554

**Re: Implementation of the Subscriber Changes Provisions of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996; Policies and Rules Concerning
Unauthorized Changes of Consumers' Long Distance Carriers; Sprint
Petition for Waiver; CC Docket No. 94-129**

Dear Ms. Searcy:

On February 16, 2000, Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") filed a petition in the above-referenced docket seeking a limited waiver of the Commission's authorization and verification rules to the extent necessary to enable Sprint to transfer certain customers of GTE Communications Corporation, d/b/a GTE Long Distance ("GTE-LD") to Sprint's customer base without first obtaining such subscribers' authorization and verification. The customers in question are those who are taking interLATA service from GTE-LD in all of the Bell Atlantic States, with the exception of New York, and in the District of Columbia and did not switch their interLATA service to another IXC in response to a letter sent by GTE-LD asking them to do so because of the pending merger between GTE Corporation and Bell Atlantic.

Sprint stated that once it received the names and addresses of the customers to be switched to Sprint from GTE-LD, Sprint would send such customers a letter informing them that in light of GTE-LD's cessation of interexchange operations in the customer's State and the fact the customer did not select another IXC, he or she has become a Sprint customer; that Sprint's services will be provided at rates and under terms and conditions comparable to the rates, terms and conditions of their service with GTE-LD; that the customer does not have to do anything to receive Sprint service; but that the customer should contact his or her LEC to change carriers if the customer does not want Sprint service. Sprint did not attach such letter to its petition because it had not yet been drafted. Nonetheless, Sprint stated that it would furnish a draft of the letter once completed if the FCC deemed it necessary.

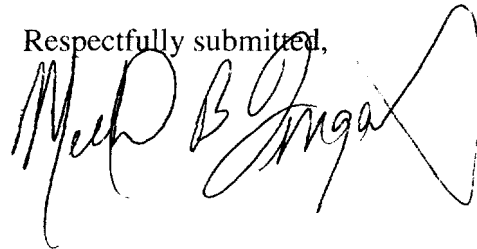
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Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
March 16, 2000
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In recent conversations with the staff of the Common Carrier Bureau responsible for reviewing Sprint's waiver request, Sprint was instructed to provide two additional documents. First, the staff stated that they would like to see a copy of the draft letter Sprint proposes to send to each of the former GTE-LD customers who are transferred to Sprint. I have enclosed an initial draft of the letter. In it, Sprint welcomes the customer to Sprint and, as instructed by the staff, states that customer will receive Sprint service at rates which are the same -- or even better than -- the rates they paid for their GTE-LD interLATA service. The letter also informs the customer of his or her ability to change carriers by contacting their LEC. And, Sprint provides a toll-free number for the customer to call if he or she has any questions about the transfer or the Sprint service the customer will receive.

Second, Sprint was asked to provide a copy of the actual letter that GTE-LD sent to its customers informing them that GTE-LD was discontinuing its provision of interLATA service in their State; that, as a result, they should select another carrier to provide such service; and, that if they did not do so they would be transferred to Sprint to ensure no disruption in the customer's interLATA service. A copy of such letter is also attached. I have been informed by GTE that the letter was mailed to GTE-LD's residential customers on February 24 and 25 and to GTE-LD's small business customers on February 28.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Gonzales", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Enclosures

c: Katherine Schroder, FCC, (By FAX and Hand Delivery)
Michele Walters, FCC (By Hand Delivery)
Kim Jackson, FCC (By Hand Delivery)



Date

To our newest Sprint customer:

On April 1, Sprint became your long-distance service provider as the result of an agreement with GTE. As you were previously notified, GTE was required to divest its long-distance business in your area due to its merger with Bell Atlantic. And, Sprint is pleased to have the opportunity to serve you and would like to make sure that you are completely satisfied with our service. However, if you wish to switch to another carrier, please call your local service provider. Below is some important information about your new Sprint account. Please call our Customer Service representatives at 1-800-877-4646 if you have any questions.

About Your Long-Distance Service...

In order to make your transition to Sprint as easy as possible for you, we've automatically signed you up for a plan that will provide you with rates that are the same or even better than the rates you received from GTE.

Sprint offers a wide variety of additional calling plans which may better meet your calling needs. For example, **Sprint Nickel Nights (sm)***, allows you to call out-of-state for just 5 cents a minute from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week. All other times are just 10 cents a minute for a low monthly fee of \$5.95. Just call a Customer Service representative at 1-800-877-4646 to request this plan or to find out about other plans which might be a better fit.

Other Services Available From Sprint...

Get Calling Card Convenience with the Sprint FONCARD(sm)

If you need the convenience of a long-distance calling card, call today to apply for a Sprint FONCARD(sm). Please note that GTE Calling Cards will be deactivated as of April 30.

If You Had a GTE 800 Number with PIN...

Sprint also offers Toll Free numbers with a personal identification number (PIN) service with a variety of plans to choose from. You will need to arrange for a new number and PIN before April 30th in order to continue your toll free with PIN service and avoid any service disruption.

If You Had a GTE Toll Free Number (without a PIN)...

Your individual toll free number will not change. We've automatically signed you up for our standard **Sprint 800 (sm)** service which offers you 20 cents per minute rates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The monthly fee of \$4 for the first 3 months of your service will be waived.

Pay by Credit Card

Avoid the hassles of paying by check. Sign up now to pay your Sprint long-distance charges by credit card.

If you should be charged by your local carrier to switch your long distance to Sprint, please return the coupon provided by GTE with your local bill to receive full credit for the switch. If you have any questions about this fee, call our customer service at the number listed below.

Sprint offers a wide variety of calling plans and communications services. Call Customer Service at 1-800-877-4646 to consult with a Sprint representative or visit our website at www.sprint.com to find the plan that is best for you.



6665 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039

**PLEASE SELECT A NEW
LONG DISTANCE CARRIER
BY MARCH 20.**

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

Maverick Street
Boston, MA 02128-2310

**GTE LONG DISTANCE
WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE
LONG-HAUL OR INTERSTATE SERVICE
IN YOUR STATE.**

Dear :

As of March 30, GTE Long Distance will no longer provide long-haul or interstate long distance service in your area. GTE is merging with Bell Atlantic and, as a result, will be subject to regulatory requirements that currently prohibit the new company from providing long-haul or interstate long distance service in some states. The new company will be working to receive the required approvals that will allow us to offer long-haul or interstate long distance service in your area again soon.

What does this mean to you? It means you will want to select a new long distance carrier by March 20, 2000. You also will want to secure another provider for your calling cards and toll-free services provided by GTE Long Distance.

Please note, your local service will not be affected. However, if your local toll service is provided by GTE Long Distance, you will want to select another carrier for that service as well.

Here are the simple steps you should take now to secure a new long distance company:

1. Use the enclosed information sheet to help you select the new long-haul and interstate long distance company of your choice. When you call a long distance company, ask about calling plans and other long distance services you need, such as calling cards and toll-free services.

If you have a long distance company change restriction on your phone lines, please call your local phone company to remove the

**SERVICES AFFECTED:
LONG-HAUL OR
INTERSTATE SERVICE,
800 TOLL-FREE SERVICE
AND CALLING CARDS**

**PLEASE CHOOSE
A NEW COMPANY
FOR THESE SERVICES
BY MARCH 20, 2000**

**THIS CHANGE DOES
NOT AFFECT YOUR
LOCAL SERVICE**

**THIS CHANGE MAY
AFFECT YOUR
LOCAL TOLL SERVICE**

**FOR QUESTIONS CALL
1-800-699-6610 OR VISIT
www.gte.com/LDCHANGE**

Continued on next page

Detach here

0252/X1R4



Not redeemable for cash. Good only for telephone charges.

9030002081

50-937
213

Five and 00/100 Dollars


LONG DISTANCE

Pay to the order of:

GTE Network Services or the Local Telephone Company

\$ 5.00

**Expires 90 days
from date of issue.**


Gregory D. Jacobson,
Treasurer

11 903000 208 111 10 213093 79060 18 2995511

restriction. This will help assure that your service will be transferred to a new company without interruption.

2. Be sure to switch by March 20, 2000. If you have not selected a provider by that date, we have made arrangements for Sprint to become your long distance carrier (pending regulatory approval). This will ensure no disruption to your service.

3. We have enclosed a coupon to defray the cost of switching to another long distance company. Just enclose the coupon in your next local telephone bill and simply deduct the coupon from the total you pay.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments within 15 days after receipt of this notification. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554, referencing the #63.71 Application of GTE Communications Corporation. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. The states affected by this change are CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV, as well as Washington DC.

It has been a pleasure to serve you and we hope to be able to offer you long distance service again in the future. Please call 1-800-699-6610 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John M. Havens
Assistant Vice President - GTE Long Distance

GTE Long Distance is a division of GTE Communications Corporation